

## REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 1-6 and 22-24 are allowed, and further, that claims 12, 16, and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-11, 13-15, 17-20, and 22-24 remain pending in the instant application. Claims 8-11, 13-15, and 17-20 presently stand rejected. Claims 7, 8, 13, and 17 are amended herein. Claims 12, 16, and 21 are hereby cancelled without prejudice. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

### *Drawings*

The Examiner objected to FIG. 5 as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) for not including the reference sign(s) mentioned in the description. Accordingly, paragraphs 33 and 34 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner objected to FIGs. 5 and 7 as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) for including reference characters not mentioned in the specification. Accordingly, FIGs. 5 and 7 have been amended to remove reference character 32 and 67, respectively.

### *Specification*

The Examiner is thanked for bringing typographical errors in the specification to Applicants' attention. The Examiner objected to the Specification as including a couple typographical mistakes. In particular, the Examiner indicated that line 10 of paragraph 25 is missing a ".". However, Applicants are unable to find a missing "." in paragraph [0025]. The other typographical error in paragraph [0045] has been corrected.

### *Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112*

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Accordingly, claim 7 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

*Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103*

Claims 8-11 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Geannopoulos et al. (US 6,075,832) in view of Thacker (US 5,313,501). Claims 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor (US 5,627,736) in view of Thacker.

Independent claims 8, 13, and 17 have been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claims 12, 16, and 21, respectively, deemed by the Examiner as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the claims in the manner in which the Examiner has indicated would be allowed and therefore all independent claims include allowable subject matter.

Dependent claims 9-11, 14, 15, and 18-20 are nonobvious over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with their respective independent claims, in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the instant § 103 rejections for claims 9-11, 14, 15, and 18-20 be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the applicable rejections have been overcome and all claims remaining in the application are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at (206) 292-8600 if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

### CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Please credit any overpayment to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: April 18, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cory G. Claassen', is written over a horizontal line.

Cory G. Claassen

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## **DRAWING AMENDMENTS**

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIG. 5 and FIG. 7. These sheets, which include FIG. 5 and FIG. 7, replace the original sheets including FIG. 5 and FIG. 7. In FIG. 5, reference label “32” has been removed. In FIG. 7, reference labels “67” have been removed.

Attachment: Two Replacement Sheets